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CLAIMS

1. A sailing boat comprising:
 - a hull;
 - a mast in the form of a closed loop that extends abeam of the hull;
 - 5 a tabernacle that mounts the mast directly or indirectly on the hull;
 - a main spar supported on the mast with the main spar extending upwardly from a lower, fore position forward of the mast to a higher, aft position aft of the mast; and
 - a sail depending from the main spar for deployment within the closed
 - 10 loop of the mast.
2. A sailing boat according to claim 1, wherein said hull is a single hull.
3. A sailing boat according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said loop is elliptical.
4. A sailing boat according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said loop is ovoid, with an apex at the top of the mast.
- 15 5. A sailing boat according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the maximum beam of said mast is in the range 60 to 90 percent of its height.
6. A sailing boat according to claim 5, wherein the maximum beam of said mast is in the range 65 to 85 percent of its height.
7. A sailing boat according to claim 6, wherein the maximum beam of said
- 20 mast is in the range 70 to 80 percent of its height.

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8. A sailing boat according to claim 7, wherein the maximum beam of said mast is substantially 75 percent of its height.
9. A sailing boat according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said mast is formed of at least one closed hollow member.
- 5 10. A sailing boat according to claim 9, wherein said mast is formed of a single closed hollow member having ends that are connected at the top of the mast.
11. A sailing boat according to claim 9, wherein said mast is formed of a plurality of closed hollow members having ends that are connected at the top
10 and the bottom of the mast.
12. A sailing boat according to claim 11, wherein said tabernacle connects said ends of said closed hollow members at the bottom of the mast.
13. A sailing boat according to claim 9, 10, 11 or 12, wherein said hollow member is at least partially filled with foam or other buoyancy-assisting material.
- 15 14. A sailing boat according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said tabernacle affords movement of the mast between an operative position in which it extends abeam of the hull and a stowed position in which it extends more fore and aft of the hull.
- 15 15. A sailing boat according to claim 14, wherein the mast when in said
20 stowed position extends substantially fore and aft of the hull.

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16. A sailing boat according to claim 14 or 15, wherein said tabernacle affords pivoting movement of the mast between said operative position and said stowed position.
17. A sailing boat according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said
5 main spar is connected to the mast at or adjacent a top centre point of the mast.
18. A sailing boat according to any of the preceding claims, including stays for supporting opposite sides of the mast.
19. A sailing boat according to claim 18, including stay adjustment means for adjusting said stays and thereby the rake of the mast.
- 10 20. A sailing boat according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said main spar extends at an angle in the range 35 to 55 degrees to the horizontal.
21. A sailing boat according to claim 20, wherein said main spar extends at an angle in the range 40 to 50 degrees to the horizontal.
22. A sailing boat according to claim 21, wherein said main spar extends at
15 an angle of substantially 45 degrees to the horizontal.
23. A sailing boat according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said hull is provided with a bowsprit and a forward end of said main spar is located on said bowsprit, forward of the bow of the hull.
24. A sailing boat according to claim 23, including means for adjusting the
20 position of said forward end of said main spar on said bowsprit.

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25. A sailing boat according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said main spar has a cross-section that tapers towards its upper end.

26. A sailing boat according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said main spar has a degree of flexibility that increases towards its upper end.

5 27. A sailing boat according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said mast is located at a distance from the bow of the hull that is in the range 25 to 40 percent of the length of the hull.

28. A sailing boat according to claim 27, wherein said mast is located at a distance from the bow of the hull that is substantially one-third of the length of
10 the hull.

29. A sailing boat according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said sail has a lower, aft corner that is tethered substantially above the centre line of the hull.

30. A sailing boat according to claim 29, including means for adjusting the
15 position of said aft corner up to 100mm either side of the centre line of the hull.

31. A sailing boat according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said sail extends from a position forward of the bow of the hull to a position substantially above the stern of the hull.

32. A sailing boat according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said sail
20 is of substantially triangular shape.

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33. A sailing boat according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the dimensions and locations of said mast, main spar and sail are such that, when deployed, the sail cannot touch the mast.

34. A sailing boat comprising:

5 a hull;

a mast mounted directly or indirectly on the hull and comprising two opposing side portions that are joined at the top, each said side portion extending upwardly and outwardly from a respective side of the hull;

10 a main spar supported on the mast with the main spar extending upwardly from a lower, fore position forward of the mast to a higher, aft position aft of the mast; and

a sail depending from the main spar for deployment within the area bounded by said opposing side portions of the mast.

35. A sailing boat according to claim 34, wherein each said side portion of
15 the mast extends outwardly of the hull for a distance equal to at least 20 per cent of the extreme beam of the hull.

36. A sailing boat according to claim 34, wherein each said side portion of the mast extends outwardly of the hull for a distance equal to at least 30 per cent of the extreme beam of the hull.

20 37. A sailing boat according to claim 34, wherein each said side portion of the mast extends outwardly of the hull for a distance equal to at least 40 per cent of the extreme beam of the hull. .

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38. A sailing boat according to claim 34, wherein each said side portion of the mast extends outwardly of the hull for a distance equal to at least 50 per cent of the extreme beam of the hull.

39. A sailing boat according to claim 34, wherein each said side portion of
5 the mast extends outwardly of the hull for a distance equal to at least 60 per cent of the extreme beam of the hull.

40. A sailing boat according to any of claims 34 to 39 and also according to any of claims 1 to 33.

41. A sailing boat comprising:

10 a hull;

a mast that extends upwardly from one side of the hull and returns to a point substantially above the centre line of the hull;

a main spar supported on the mast with the main spar extending upwardly from a lower, fore position forward of the mast to a higher, aft
15 position aft of the mast; and

a sail depending from the main spar for deployment to one side of the mast.

42. A sailing boat according to claim 41 and also according to any of the preceding claims.

20 43. A sailing boat substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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44. A sailing rig for a sailing boat according to any of the preceding claims, the rig comprising said mast, sail and main spar.